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AUSTRIA; USSR; CZECHOSLOVAKIA



Miscellaneous Information on the Soviet-Controlled Austrian Oilfields



The causes for the present decreasing petroleum production in the Austrian oilfields go back to 1945 when the Soviets began their unrestricted exploitation without any thought to the future. In the ZISTERDORF zone about 25 wells have gone dry or are producing a low-grade oil which the refineries have difficulties in processing.

OROP [a Soviet-Austrian corporation] controls 357 wells, of which 296 are productive. Out of the 296 wells, 92 can be classified as high productive. In September, OROP could not ship its full quota of petroleum to CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

The Soviet authorities have direct control over an unknown number of well and installations in the NEUSIEDLER SEE region. The production of this field is used for the Soviet occupation forces.

In almost all the oil regions, new wells are being drilled and the existing wells enlarged. Here, again, is evidence that the Soviets are not bothered about the rapid exhausting of Austrian petroleum reserves but only with the greatest possible exploitation. New explorations are in progress in the NUESIEDLER SEE region and also in the territory toward the HUNGARIAN border. Petroleum specialists doubt that there is sufficient oil in these zones to make exploitation commercially economic.

Twenty-seven percent of the AUSTRIAN refineries are unusable. During September 1952, not a single ton of aviation gasoline was produced in AUSTRIA.

The decreased production of the oilfields has caused lay-offs of workers in the fields and refineries.

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